

PRYOR, to introduce a bill to direct the Treasury to mint a commemorative coin in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, AR.

Our colleagues in the House have led the way in this effort with a bill written by Representative VIC SNYDER and co-sponsored by the entire Arkansas delegation.

On September 2, 1957, nine African-American students made their way to the front doors of Central High School in the city of Little Rock, AR. In our modern era, this seems like a very normal moment. And in truth there is nothing particularly special about students making their way to school on the first day of class. However, in 1957, this was a Nation changing event.

Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, Jefferson Thomas, Terrence Roberts, Carlotta Walls, Minnijean Brown, Gloria Ray, Thelma Mothershed and Melba Pattillo showed courage in the face of strong opposition. Their principled stand helped to move the State and the Nation forward as it marched toward greater equality for all.

What happened in Little Rock almost 50 years ago is not only a testament to the Little Rock Nine, but it is also a testament to those who supported them. It is a testament to the people of Little Rock of all hues who decided that they would confront their own consciences. And it is testament to those who, upon reflecting on the matter, decided that doing what is right was worth the cost.

Their decision to move this Nation forward makes me proud to be an Arkansan. It makes me proud to be an American. That's why I'm especially pleased to introduce this legislation to direct the Treasury to issue these commemorative coins. This bill is a small token of recognition of the gift that the Little Rock nine and the entire Little Rock community has given to this Nation.

I believe that someone who was there can say it better than I can. At the 20th anniversary of the integration of Central High, Ralph G. Brodie, the '57-'58 student body president, spoke at a special ceremony where he paid tribute to the Little Rock Nine. He addressed the three of the Little Rock Nine who were present saying: "You've done much to assure the rights of others. Yours were acts of courage, and I salute you."

I join him. I salute the Little Rock Nine and I salute those, both black and white, who helped to successfully integrate Central High School.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE GUN INDUSTRY IMMUNITY BILL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I am disappointed to see the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act reintroduced. I supported the successful effort to defeat the gun industry immunity legislation during the 108th Congress and I continue to oppose the legislation.

The misnamed "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act" would rewrite well-accepted principles of liability law, providing the gun industry legal protections not enjoyed by other industries. In addition, this bill would set a dangerous precedent by terminating a wide range of pending and prospective civil cases against members of the gun industry. It would give a single industry broad immunity from civil liability and deprive many victims of gun violence with legitimate cases of their day in court.

While most gun dealers and manufacturers conduct their business responsibly, this gun industry immunity legislation would provide protection from liability even in cases where gross negligence or recklessness lead to someone being injured or killed.

The reintroduction of this bill comes after the Supreme Court recently allowed a civil suit against members of the gun industry to progress in California. Reportedly, the plaintiffs in this case allege that the gun manufacturer being sued distributed guns to dealers who were likely to sell them illegally or through largely unregulated gun shows. Judge Richard Paez of the Ninth Circuit wrote of this case: The social value of manufacturing and distributing guns without taking basic steps to prevent these guns from reaching illegal purchasers and possessors cannot outweigh the public interest in keeping the guns out of the hands of those who in turn use them in crimes.

Last year, in a settlement that marked victory for the 2002 Washington, DC, area sniper shooting victims, Bushmaster Firearms, manufacturer of the XM-15 assault rifle used in the sniper attacks, agreed to pay \$550,000 in damages for negligence leading to criminal violence in connection with the shooting spree.

According to reports, Bushmaster continued to sell firearms, including the XM-15 assault rifle used in the sniper shootings, to Bull's Eye Shooter Supply in Tacoma, WA, even after several ATF audits documented the dealer's inability to responsibly account for its inventory of weapons. Reports indicate that 238 guns had gone missing from Bull's Eye's inventory and over 50 had been traced to criminal acts since 1997. The victims of the sniper shootings would have lost their ability to sue Bushmaster Firearms and Bull's Eye Shooter Supply had the gun industry immunity bill become law during the 108th Congress.

If it is enacted, this bill would substantially weaken the legal rights of gun violence victims. In addition, other

industries will almost certainly line up for similar protections. This is unwise legislation and it should not be adopted.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to share with my colleagues the winners of the 2004-2005 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

In 1985, I joined with the Indiana Farm Bureau to sponsor an essay contest for eighth grade students in my home State. The purpose of this contest was to encourage young Hoosiers to recognize and appreciate the importance of Indiana agriculture in their lives and subsequently, craft an essay responding to the assigned theme. I, along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years.

I congratulate Thomas (Trey) Dunn III of Jay County and Brittany Lechner of Daviess County as winners of this year's contest. Likewise, I include the names of all of the district and county winners of the 2004-2005 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

I ask that the following materials be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE PERFECT PIZZA BEGINS ON HOOSIER FARMS

(By Thomas (Trey) Dunn III, Jay County)

Set for the kick-off,
We work as a team.
Joining together,
To accomplish our dream
We'll celebrate the victory.
It's time to begin.
The perfect Hoosier pizza,
Will help your body win!

BUZZ! "The final in tonight's football contest is Junk Food 0, Hoosier Pizza 100 percent healthy! Stay tuned, we'll recap tonight's game and we will be joined by the workhorses on the team; the 4 basic food groups."

"Mr. Grain, I thought your unit looked especially good in the first quarter." "Indiana farmers prepared Wil Wheat, Otis Oat, and Sam Soybean well for this game. They mixed it up right away and they were the gluten that held us together. They rolled out with a great foundation and used their carbohydrates to keep us energized."

"Mr. Fruit A. Veg, the second quarter definitely belonged to your members." "I thought the Tomato triplets were really firm tonight, as grown by our Indiana farmers. Their play was smashing! They spread the defense all over the field. The Mushrooms and Peppers sliced their way through tonight also. Vitamins A and C worked hard at keeping us focused and alert throughout."

"Mr. Meat, the third quarter was great!" "Thanks, Indiana farmers really came

through with that lean, mean Beef and Pork. They definitely saved our bacon out there tonight! Their protein helped us out muscle the other guys."

Mr. Dairy, I don't think you could top your fourth quarter." "Indiana farmers landed us on top tonight! Ched Dar, Pro Valone, and Mott Zerella shredded our opponent's game plan. Their calcium has been building strong bones and teeth all year."

"You heard it fans! Let's celebrate a victory with our 100 percent healthy, Perfect Pizza team, prepared with pride on Hoosier farms."

THE PERFECT PIZZA BEGINS ON HOOSIER FARMS

(By Brittany Lechner, Daviess County)

You're invited to my Indiana pizza party! All the ingredients for this meal are produced right here in the Hoosier state!

First I will make the dough with flour from an Indiana wheat farm. Over 10,000 farms here grow wheat, generating over \$91 million. There's obviously plenty of wheat here.

Then I will create the sauce, beginning at Etienne's Farm Market in Washington for tomatoes, peppers, and onions. This family farm has provided the local community with fresh fruits and vegetables for over 25 years.

Next I will travel to Elnora for a package or two of Grahams mozzarella cheese from the company started by Robert Graham in 1928. This excellent cheese is known statewide!

Now come the sausage and pepperoni. The pigs that provide these toppings used to live right here on one of the many pig farms in Daviess County.

After gathering the pizza ingredients, I turn to my side dishes. Doty Orchard, also in Daviess County, provides a couple of fresh peaches. A drink would be welcome, so I choose a glass of fresh milk. Considering the many dairy farms in Indiana, milk is no problem for a drink.

Now that my pizza is in the oven and the peaches are sliced, let me show you just how nutritious a meal we have: My feast consists of two dairy servings, two vegetable/fruits, and one meat serving. Pretty healthy, if I do say so.

Altogether I think this pizza meal is a good source of nutrition and shows just how Indiana farmers keep us healthy.

2004-2005 District Essay Winners

District 1

Trevor Chrzan
Aubri Smeltzer

District 2

Clayton Gerig
Tianna Stieglitz

District 3

Ty Shrontz
Malena Zook

District 4

Thomas (Trey) Dunn III
Jennifer Hunt

District 5

Carter Morgan
Olivia Leonard

District 6

Will Petrovic
Amanda Carter

District 7

Brandon Hall
Brittany Lechner

District 8

Peter Reding
Ashley Lentz

District 9

Scott Riedford
Alyssa Schmitt

District 10

Tevin Ewing
Madeline Smith

2004-2005 County Essay Winners

Adams: Clark Faurote and Jane Goebel
Allen: Tianna Stieglitz
Bartholomew: Logan Pankratz and Ashley Lentz

Carroll: Malena Zook

Cass: Ty Shrontz and Alesia Brown

Clark: Tevin Ewing and Madeline Smith (co-winner) Anna Trotter (co-winner)

Clay: Brandon Hall and Megan Vansickle

Crawford: Corey Phipps and Tessa Weathers
Daviess: Brittney Lechner

Dearborn: Carter Grove and Becky Tyler

Decatur: Peter Reding

DeKalb: Clayton Gerig and Cassandra Wene

Dubois: Max Kitten and Lauren Reckelhoff

Elkhart: Isaac Vining and Bretta Bachert

Fayette: Jacob Rude and Corinne Watson

Floyd: John Bolander and Lauren Knight

Franklin: Mike Johnston and Teresa Burger

Gibson: Scott Riedford

Greene: Kyle Cooper and Brittney Rhodes

Hamilton: Will Petrovic and Kirsten Sobol

Hancock: Rachel Rominger

Hendricks: Alison Koelling

Henry: Mitchell Halcomb and Amanda Carter

Jackson: Caleb Hackman and Courtney Robbins

Jasper: Jacob Egan and Marisa Mangas

Jay: Thomas (Trey) Dunn III and Jennifer Hunt

Jennings: Kyle Hatfield and Linzi Firsich

Johnson: Joseph Clady and Alexis Bridges

LaGrange: Ryan Lewis and Kara Miller

Lake: Daniel Klipper and Kathryn Alleva

LaPorte: Jackson Troxel and Aubri Smeltzer

Marion: Michael Frost and Brynne Thompson

Monroe: Jill Parrott

Morgan: Olivia Leonard

Newton: Scott Shedrow and Caitlyn Yana

Posey: Justin Collins and Alyssa Schmitt

Pulaski: Trevor Chrzan and Sabrina Tanner

St. Joseph: Jack Chartier and Rebecca Knabenshue

Scott: Brett Mayer and Morgan Means

Starke: Michael Okray and Katie Kensinger

Sullivan: Travis Robbins

Switzerland: Beth Abbott

Tippecanoe: Elizabeth Byers

Tipton: Brock McVeigh and Stephanie Fidler

Vermillion: Carter Morgan and Rayven Randolph

Vigo: Nathan Thornton and Kayelene Linkenheld

Wabash: Neil Bever and Addie Ratcliff

Warrick: Clay Wildt and Mackenzie Castleman

Washington: Michael Baird

Wayne: Jake Sheard and Megan Jester

White: Zach Minnicus and Carrie Firkins.●

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

CREDIT CARD COMPANY DISCLOSURES

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I would like to express my concerns about certain practices of the credit card industry. I am especially concerned about the disclosures credit card companies make to their customers. While I am pleased that the bankruptcy reform bill includes new disclosure obligations for credit card companies, I would like to see the Banking Committee examine the credit card industry and consider the need for further reform of the regulations governing the credit card industry.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, through the course of the debate on the bankruptcy reform bill, it has become clear there are many Senators who have concerns about the numerous aspects of the credit card industry. I want to point out that I am aware of the Senator from Ohio's concerns in particular. I want to indicate for the RECORD that I recognize these concerns and to note that I have had a long-standing interest in exploring these matters more deeply. Therefore, I am willing to commit to holding hearings in the Banking Committee later this year to examine the credit card industry and the need to reform credit card regulations. I believe the ranking member also shares my interest in holding hearings.

Mr. SARBANES. Chairman Shelby, I share your interest in holding hearings on the credit card industry and would hope that we might hear from all those Senators who have expressed an interest and may wish to testify before the committee.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I would like to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Banking Committee for their acknowledgment of my concerns. I also appreciate their interest in this matter and believe that these are serious issues that merit further attention. I look forward to working with the chairman and ranking member in examining these issues associated with practices in the credit card industry.●

● Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, while I strongly believe that Congress should act to fix the problems in our bankruptcy system, I also believe that this bill is misguided and deeply flawed.

This bankruptcy bill fundamentally fails to accord with the traditional purposes of bankruptcy, which recognize that we are all better off when hardworking people who have suffered financial catastrophe get a "fresh start" and a second chance to become productive and contributing members of society. With the passage of this legislation, which makes obtaining this fresh start more expensive and more difficult, we are ensuring that many responsible Americans will continue to be buried under mountains of debt, and unable to take back control and responsibility for their lives.

Our Nation's bankruptcy law developed out of a recognition that the world can be a competitive, often unforgiving place. Bankruptcy reform should therefore be directed toward creating a civil society in which valuing individual responsibility is not incompatible with admitting the enduring truth that sometimes bad things happen to responsible, hardworking people. Sometimes, conscientious Americans need help and support against forces that are too big for them to stand against alone. It should be about making sure that both large corporations and individual citizens are held to the same standards of responsibility and accountability.